

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (previously amended) A modular vehicle, comprising:

a vehicle platform;

a plurality of fixation sites along said platform, said fixation sites comprising
5 standardized interconnection means for any of mechanical, electrical, and fluid connection to specialized functional modules;

said fixation sites being located along said platform at intervals to readily accept at least two said modules simultaneously, where

each said module is sized as a standardized fraction of the total area of said
10 platform, with

said platform accepting a plurality of combinations of said modules, with the total area of the ~~comprising each of~~ modules of said combination totaling no more than the area of said platform; and

a control and communications protocol communicatively provided throughout
15 said platform for recognizing any of said module's presence, identity, capability, and function, and for configuring said modular vehicle accordingly.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) The vehicle of Claim 1, further comprising:

a dedicated path about said platform for effecting individual control of said modules.

4. (original) The vehicle of Claim 1, further comprising:

a computer implemented vehicle operating system for controlling said modules.

5. (original) The vehicle of Claim 1, said fixation sites comprising:

a plurality of custom interfaces for any of contact closures, lighting, power, control, and interface to computers on board one or more of said modules.

6. (currently amended) The vehicle of Claim 1, said ~~computer implemented~~ control and communications protocol further comprising:

means for recognizing ~~any of~~ said module's personality and location.

7. (canceled)

8. (previously amended) The vehicle of Claim 1, said computer implemented control and communications protocol further comprising:

means for controlling vehicle operation and configuration, both in accordance with a current vehicle complement of said modules and in accordance with vehicle resources and performance specifications.

Claims 9-13 (canceled)

14. (previously presented) The vehicle of Claim 1, said computer implemented control and communications protocol further comprising:

means for acknowledging any said module, and for performing a background calculation for any of said module weight, balance, and power consumption.

15. (previously presented) A modular vehicle, comprising:

a vehicle platform;

means for accepting at least two special purpose, self-identifying modules simultaneously on said vehicle platform in a mix and match fashion to provide said vehicle with a desired functionality for a particular application;

a central control system within said vehicle for communication with, and identification and control of said special purpose modules; and

a plurality of sites at standardized intervals along said platform that each provide a common connection for mechanical, electrical, and fluid communication for said modules.

16. (previously presented) The vehicle of Claim 15, said fixation sites defining fractional locations along an overall platform extent, wherein said platform receives a plurality of said modules, wherein said modules have an extent that is equal to, or that is a fraction of, said platform extent, and wherein any number of modules having a total, combined extent that is less than or equal to the extent of said platform may be attached to said platform at any given time.

17. (canceled)

18. (previously presented) The vehicle of Claim 15, said central control system further comprising:

means for any of assessing any of said module weight, power consumption, size, and functionality; determining whether a complement of modules fit within design limits of said platform; and dynamically configuring a user interface to express functionality of each of said modules installed on said platform.